

The remainder of the volume is occupied by the special Zoological Reports of some of the separate Expeditions sent out to survey the Pacific Railroad routes,—namely, of those under the commands of Lieutenants Beckwith, Whipple, Parke, Williamson, and Abbott. It would have been better, we think, to have merged all these Reports into the General Report, and to have issued the whole in one connected series. It is tiresome to be referred from the Special Report to the General for the description of a species or the characters of a genus, and from the General to the Special for remarks on the habits of animals, their mode of propagation, &c. But it is easy to criticize; and all the points to which we have alluded detract but little from the great general value of this work. We fear it will be long before our own Government issues a series of “Blue-books” so generally acceptable to the scientific world, or so likely to escape the usual fate of the British article—being sold for waste paper.

*Animal Physiology.* By WILLIAM B. CARPENTER, M.D., F.R.S., F.G.S., F.L.S. New edition, thoroughly revised and partly re-written. Sm. 8vo. London, H. G. Bohn, 1859.

OF the series of scientific manuals prepared many years ago by Dr. Carpenter, and published by W. S. Orr and Co. of Amen Corner, the treatise on Animal Physiology was certainly one of the best. It has already passed through two or three editions; and we have now to announce the publication of a new edition thoroughly revised by the author.

The book has undergone considerable alterations in many parts, in order to bring it up to the present state of science; and three chapters especially have been almost entirely re-written. These are: the first chapter, treating “of the vital operations of animals, and the instruments by which they are performed,” which contains an excellent digest of the distinctive characters of animals, with an account of the nature of their various tissues and the chemical constituents of the latter; the second chapter, giving a general view of the classification of the animal kingdom, which is greatly improved; and the last chapter, which treats of the phænomena of reproduction. The changes in the latter are very extensive, as may be supposed from the great progress made within the last few years in our knowledge of these matters; and the reader will find in it a very good, although succinct account, not only of the ordinary development of the ovum, but also of the alternation of generations, and of the singular phænomena to which Siebold restricts the term Parthenogenesis. On the whole, we may safely recommend the present edition of Dr. Carpenter’s little book as the best popular account of the structure and functions of the animal body for the use of the general reader.